

**Virginia Department of Health  
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #21  
August 21, 2006**

**WORLDWIDE UPDATE.**

- The count of human cases of H5N1 influenza increased by 3 cases and 2 deaths this week. A Chinese farmer who had become ill in June and died in July was just confirmed this week to have been infected with the virus. Indonesia reported two cases, a 17 year old male and a 9 year old female, both of whom had contact with dead poultry. The 17 year old is recovering from the illness. His 20 year old cousin became ill the same day he did and died, but no specimens were collected from him, so influenza cannot be confirmed.
- The World Health Organization issued new guidelines to national authorities and vaccine companies on the selection of candidate H5N1 viruses for use in vaccine development. Different genetic groups of the virus have been identified. WHO recommends that virus selection depend on geographic spread, epidemiology, antigenic and genetic properties of recently circulating H5N1 viruses.

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office**

- Next Pandemic Flu Advisory Group meeting will be held on September 18 at the Crowne Plaza West on Broad Street just east of I-64 at Glenside.
- VDH conducted a system-wide Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise via Video-teleconference. Health District, Regional Hospital Coordinators, Regional Teams and Central Office Representatives participated. This exercise concentrated on health-centric and Internal Continuity of Operations (COOP) issues. Immediate impressions were collected; a formal after action Report is in development. This effort will assist in refining preparations for the October 23-25 Statewide Pandemic Influenza Functional Exercise.
- VDH will brief PanFlu Issues to the upcoming Secure Commonwealth Committee Meeting (9/07).
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Near SW Region	August 22
Hampton Roads	August 22
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

## VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports,** No Reports.

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report**

- **Alexandria**
  - First draft of report to City Council completed, reflecting work of over 60 people on nine subject matter groups. Near-final drafts of Medical and Public Health Surge, Communication with the Public, Fatality Management, and Quarantine and Isolation plans completed. Coordinated work of draft plan with Alexandria City Public Schools.
  - Pandemic flu brochures and posters at printer.
  - Beginning finalization of work with contractor.
- **Chesapeake**
  - Planner interviewed by Inside Business magazine to provide readers insight into Chesapeake/ Hampton Roads PanFlu planning. Expected publication is August 21.
  - Conducted medical screening of all CHD personnel in preparation for annual respirator fit testing of N95/N100 respirators.
  - Explored, with Emergency Management, potential for injecting PanFlu components to upcoming City Exercises with the EOC activated.
  - Emergency Planner and City Emergency Coordinator met with College of William and Mary student to provide information for student's PanFlu Research project.
  - Invited City Attorney and staff to Isolation and Quarantine Training in Chesapeake.
  - Participated on Regional PanFlu Organizational Survival Workshop meetings.
  - Contacted Economic Development Advisory Group and other agencies to participate in Regional Workshop.
  - CHD staff and City Emergency Management Planner participated in Fowl Play TTX.
- **Chesterfield**
  - (5) presentations were made this week by staff
  - Held the second local advisory committee meeting in Colonial Heights.
  - Finalized its PanFlu 2 budget.
  - Began screening applications for PanFlu Coord/Health Educator.
- **Chickahominy**
  - Briefed the Dean of Students and her staff at Randolph Macon College on PanFlu and discussed the need for them to do planning.
  - Briefed Hanover Sheriff and Fire/EMS on PanFlu and showed the PanFlu video.
  - PanFlu video shown to CC-NK Health Department staff.
  - Briefed Goochland Board of Supervisors and discussed the need for planning and preparedness.
  - Briefed the Chickahominy Health Advisory Board on PanFlu.
  - Briefed Chickahominy MRC on PanFlu
  - Briefed Hanover County Department heads on PanFlu and stressed the need for Personal and Family Preparedness.
  - Sent letter from Director and PanFlu video to all county supervisors in Charles City, Goochland, Hanover and New Kent counties.
  - Participated with MRC at Pole Green Health Fair and showed PanFlu video.
  - Showed PanFlu video to Hanover site team.
  - Series of articles published in the NK-CC Chronicle on Personal Preparedness.
  - Discussed PanFlu program status with Chickahominy Emergency Planning Team.
  - Conducted interviews for PanFlu Coordinator.

- Conducted MRC Dispensing training using PanFlu as agent.
- Follow-up with CC-NK supervisors to discuss PanFlu planning team status.
- Conducted all day Traditional Dispensing Training / PanFlu tabletop exercise with additional modules on mental health and drive through dispensing. Attended by Hanover Fire/EMS, Ashland Police, Hanover Sheriff's, school nurses from all counties in the health district, Chickahominy MRC, Hanover schools and all Chickahominy Health District staff.
- Briefed Goochland LEPC and assisted in setting up planning committees.
- Briefed Ashland Police on PanFlu and the need for them to do planning and officer preparedness.
- Briefed MRMC and showed the PanFlu video. Suggested the need for them to do planning and to consider a large surge situation that exceeded 200% of bed capacity.
- Representatives from MRC attended the Church of the Nazarene District conference and discussed PanFlu and Personal and Family Preparedness.
- Held meeting with senior members of the Asian Chamber of Commerce to discuss outreach to the Asian community.
- Facilitated meeting with Goochland Schools and Dupont to discuss a hand cleanliness program.
- **Crater**
  - Director attended the Richmond MMRS Tabletop Exercise on August 8th. The tabletop tested local government plans and response to an influenza pandemic. It involved localities in the Richmond metropolitan area and health districts from throughout the central region.
  - Medical Director, Nurse Manager, Administrator and Emergency Planner attended the VDH Pandemic Flu tabletop exercise via polycom.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
  - Planner distributed Pandemic Influenza video, literature, and district contact information to a large local retailer within the District and invited the retailer to the upcoming local pandemic influenza meetings.
  - Planner facilitated efforts for local county pandemic influenza meetings in Dickenson and Russell counties.
  - Planner compiled the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit cost documents and distributed a cost breakout for finalization by the Summit Committee.
  - Planner met with a local financial institution to provide pandemic influenza information, references and assistance.
  - Planner completed and submitted budget justification for funding of the Fowl Play (Pandemic Influenza) exercise scheduled for October 2006.
- **Hampton**
  - Planner met with and co-facilitated Hampton Schools Systems Pandemic Working Group.
- **Henrico**
  - Planner and Epidemiologist attended Geographic Information System (GIS) training.
  - Planner participated in State-wide pandemic flu tabletop exercise.
  - Planner and Epidemiologist presented pandemic flu information to Henrico Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers
  - Epidemiologist sent out weekly Avian Flu update to community partners
  - Epidemiologist participated in Central Region Hospital Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) meeting.

- **Lenowisco**
  - Epidemiologist was invited to do a pandemic flu presentation for the Principals of the Scott County School System. There were 23 people in attendance and there were a lot of questions after the presentation regarding who would issue school closures, etc. Several calls after the presentation requesting visits to individual schools and do presentations for the teachers and staff. Will continue working with schools in pandemic flu planning initiatives.
  - Epidemiologist did a pandemic flu presentation to Head Start Teachers in Lee County.
- **Loudoun**
  - Met with County assistant administrator to review NCR emergency preparedness survey results.
  - Fifteen thousand copies of PanFlu public service circular to be sent out via Library calendars to the community in September and October 2006.
  - Advertised General Public Summit in Blue Ridge Leader to cover homes in the western part of Loudoun County.
  - Continued hand distribution of Summit flyers to county health clubs, government buildings, fraternal organizations, bowling alleys, libraries, grocery stores, and shopping and outlet malls.
  - Continued to take online, phone, and fax registrations for the General Public Summit.
  - Reviewed seminar and summit evaluation forms completed by attendees and brainstormed format of the final pandemic flu project report.
  - Prepared for special pandemic flu briefings requested by major retirement community, Loudoun County Animal Control staff members, and other community business and social groups.
  - Continued to answer public inquiries addressed to [flu@loudoun.gov](mailto:flu@loudoun.gov).
  - Reviewed and provided input to the Town of Leesburg Pandemic Flu Plan.
  - Provided painful update to law enforcement members of the Loudoun Chief's meeting.
  - PanFlu presentation given for 15 employees of Parks and Rec Department.
  - Held 3 hour General Public PanFlu Summit Aug 10 with over 170 attendees present. Speakers included Assistant County Administrator, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz, and the Loudoun County Health Director. Members of the Northern Region Team provided assistance. Informational handout materials were provided to attendees by the Loudoun Health Department, the Loudoun County Medical Reserve Corps, and the Loudoun County Chapter of the American Red Cross. The summit was broadcast live by Adelphia Cable Television and recorded for later rebroadcast and webcast through the Health Department web site ([www.loudoun.gov/flu](http://www.loudoun.gov/flu)). The question and answer session produced thoughtful discussion and input for the planning process.
  - Conducted a 2 hour PanFlu presentation to over 100 residents and staff of Falcons Landing, an assisted living center for retired Air Force personnel. This session was unique in that the audience provided real life stories of what they remembered from the 1918 pandemic.

Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise ("Code Flu 06"):

- Met with the Office of Emergency Management and law enforcement personnel (Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Special Operations) to discuss security, communication, VIP/observer, evaluator, and photography issues for the exercise on October 21st.

- Prepared and distributed the agenda for the August 14th Planning Team meeting.
- Distributed the updated POD Plan to pertinent parties.
- Conducted Planning Team meeting.
- Updated exercise timeline schedule and responsibility task list.
- Conducted Senior Leadership POD Tabletop Exercise (TTX) for 17 Loudoun Health District environmental health and nursing staff (pandemic influenza scenario).
- Conducted Senior Leadership POD Tabletop Exercise (TTX) at the Environmental Health Conference Room, Prince William Health Department, Manassas, for Prince William Health District environmental health, administrative, and nursing staff (pandemic influenza scenario).

Commonwealth/NCR SNS-PanFlu Exercise ("Fowl Play"):

- Met with the Office of Emergency Management and law enforcement personnel (Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Special Operations) to discuss updating the local SNS Plan and to outline the operations for the Loudoun SNS pick up at the NoVA warehouse on October 24th.
- Participated in "Fowl Play" Tabletop Exercise (TTX) via teleconference.
- Received final items for the pandemic flu infection control toolkits to be given to volunteer patients at the October 21st Code Flu 06 Exercise.
- Three hundred custom family preparedness tool plan pamphlets were distributed at the public PanFlu summit.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
  - Health Centers of the Piedmont Health Fair: Pandemic Influenza Outreach Worker set up a table and distributed information about pandemic influenza to the participants.
  - Public Education Subcommittee Meeting: During the previous Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee (PDPIPC) meeting, the committee decided to develop a public education subcommittee. The subcommittee met for the first time and discussed means of distributing information to the general public about pandemic influenza preparedness. Topics discussed will be presented at the next PDPIPC meeting.
  - Pittsylvania County School Nurses: District Epidemiologist and Pandemic Influenza Outreach Worker presented information about pandemic influenza preparedness to all of the Pittsylvania County School Nurses. Twenty nurses attended.
  - Business Subcommittee Meeting: The Business Subcommittee of the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee met. Topics discussed will be presented at the next PDPIPC meeting.
  - W.W. Moore, Jr. Juvenile Detention Center: District Epidemiologist and Pandemic Influenza Outreach Worker presented information about pandemic influenza preparedness to the employees of the facility. Approximately 50 employees attended.
  - Medical Subcommittee Meeting: The Medical Subcommittee of the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee met for the second time and discussed pandemic influenza planning. Topics discussed will be presented at the next PDPIPC meeting.
- **Portsmouth**
  - Planner met with the Director of Health Services and the Director of Operations for Portsmouth Public Schools to discuss PanFlu planning for the schools. Using the King County, WA template we identified specific goals to be met in various areas. Invitations are now being extended to those departments within the school system whose areas play major roles in the planning effort.

- Director has scheduled a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss those efforts and address hand washing efforts within the schools. A joint effort between the health department and the school system has permitted us to place 2-3 respiratory hygiene stations (hand sanitizer, Kleenex and information) in each of Portsmouth 25 schools.
- Planner will give a PanFlu presentation to the Kiwanis of Portsmouth.
- **Richmond City**
  - The District Pandemic Influenza plan has been updated with the proposed changes and has been redistributed for second round reviews.
  - Planner in process updating the RCHD All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan.
  - Development of POD Training 60% complete, looking at putting it online to increase the audience we will be able to reach. (Includes: MRC Volunteers and all Local Health Staff.)
  - Development of Exercise Planning Team in progress. (Members have been ID'd.)
  - In process of developing training for District staff with a pandemic influenza awareness session – 30% complete.
  - Dispensing Plan for District updated reviews being conducted.
  - A plan being developed for Oct. Exercise – Mass Vaccination, planning committee meets August 21.
- **Roanoke / Alleghany County**
  - Health Educator presented PanFlu information to Disaster Coordinator for the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Virginia, Parish Nurse for the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association.
  - Obtained contact information for regional organization of all parish nurses (of all faiths).
  - Assist in preparation for Near Southwest PanFlu summit to be held in New River HD on VT campus.
- **Southside**
  - Met with Brunswick County EOC coordinator to discuss PanFlu outreach to community
  - Discussed with Halifax School contact about having a letter brochure go to all parents in September or October.
  - Discussed with Brunswick County contact about PanFlu presentation to school nurses and teachers.
  - PanFlu Educator presented to a senior citizens group at the South Boston Y.
  - Telephone calls to several churches and associations to schedule presentations.
  - Completed ordering supplies and equipment with PanFlu monies.
  - Completed PanFlu Phase II Goals and objectives, budget and gap analysis.
  - Completed EWP for PanFlu Phase II Health Educator position.
  - Worked with PanFlu staff to expand contact list for the counties to include all churches.
  - PanFlu Educator completed the lesson plans and all handouts.
  - Planner to review lesson plans.
  - Planner and Director met with local LEPC. Talked to the business rep about working together on PanFlu Planning for the company.
  - Planner worked on Powerpoint presentation and flyers for schools.
  - PanFlu Educator and admin asst will conduct PanFlu presentation to a large Baptist Association on Monday.

- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville Area)**
  - Health director gave a pan flu talk to Albemarle County Leadership Council, Nelson Board of Supervisors, and Charlottesville Leadership council.
  - Held pan flu planning meeting with outpatient physicians
  - Serving on UVA Pan Flu Health and Infection Control Committee.
  - Serving on VHHA Altered Standards of Care Committee.
  - Business plan template developed and sent to local businesses for use, critique, revision.
  - Planner presented information on October exercise “Fowl Play” at emergency services council meetings in Nelson and Greene Counties.
  - Emergency Planner and pan flu plan coordinator met with Albemarle County school board medical subcommittee to discuss and review plan developed for schools
  - Participated in VDH pan flu tabletop exercise.
- **West Piedmont**
  - Epidemiologist attended the National Night Out, at the Martinsville, VA city site. The Planner attended the Henry County site. Both, answered questions about PanFlu by the general public.
  - Planner met with Operations Chief of Martinsville City Fire Dept., for a one-on-one consultation about PanFlu Epidemic planning for firefighters.
  - PanFlu Phase II proposed budget submitted.
  - PanFlu Brochures, purchase approved for 4000 pamphlets based on U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services literature. These pamphlets give basic information on influenza preparedness. They also have contact information for district Health Departments.
- **Western Tidewater**
  - Planner and Epidemiologist conducted a Pandemic Influenza Seminar for Adult Long term Care & Residential Facilities in the Suffolk Health Department Auditorium. The agenda for this half day seminar included a Pandemic Influenza presentation, Emergency Planning and Response, COOP, Work Force and Support, All-Hazards Revisited and ended with a discussion and questions and answers session
  - Planner conducted PanFlu presentation to Kraft foods, Suffolk facility.
  - Planner conducted PanFlu presentation to Unilever, Suffolk facility.
  - PanFlu is discussed each month at the Suffolk Biological/Terrorism Advisory Committee (BTAC).
  - Epidemiologist is planning a PanFlu presentation to Suffolk High Schools and Middle Schools at the end of August.
  - Epidemiologist has completed PanFlu training for all communicable disease nurses in the WTHD.
  - Planner will have trained entire WTHD in NIMS by August 23.
  - TSAO training begins September 1.